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Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-captioned application is respectfully requested. All pending claims (1-32) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Bradley, USPN 6,360,259. In Bradley, the relied-upon determination of membership is either done at one and only one processor, or a single determination is distributed among plural processors evidently working in cooperation on different parts of the same problem, col. 4, lines 8-12; col. 7, lines 58-60. But there is no teaching or suggestion in Bradley that the determination is undertaken at two more nodes to arrive at the same solution at each node independently of the other nodes, as now recited in the amended independent claims and as disclosed on, e.g., page 6, lines 15 and 16. In this way, the presently claimed invention functions if a link to a calculating node breaks, whereas in Bradley, if a link to a calculating node breaks, the relied-upon membership cannot be obtained. The rejections are overcome.

The fact that Applicant has focussed its comments distinguishing the present claims from the applied references and countering certain rejections must not be construed as acquiescence in other portions of rejections not specifically addressed. For instance, by way of non-limiting example Applicant does not acquiesce in the allegation that Bradley teaches providing the same seed for the membership calculation to plural nodes.

The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (619) 338-8075 for any reason which would advance the instant application to allowance.

10X3-131.AMD

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Respectfully submitted,



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